

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for moulding an article made of thermosetting and thermoplastic material, comprising:

a first and a second half-mould provided with respective compression moulding surfaces facing one another and being able to compress between them at least one plate of mouldable thermosetting material, and

at least one injection moulding area into which thermoplastic material is injected, the injection moulding area comprising a chamber communicating with at least one of said compression moulding surfaces,

spacer means provided in said injection moulding area, extending inside said chamber and positioned in such a way as to prevent said plate from penetrating into said injection moulding area when it is compressed between said compression moulding surfaces;

wherein each of the compression moulding surfaces comprises at least one surface other than the spacer means.

2. (original): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spacer means are integral with one of said half-moulds and project from at least one surface of said injection

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moulding area.

3. (original): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spacer means comprise a plurality of pin-shaped elements projecting from a bottom surface of said injection moulding area.

4. (original): An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said pin-shaped projecting elements have respective support surfaces destined to come in contact with a surface of said plate.

5. (withdrawn): A method for moulding an article made of thermosetting material, comprising the steps of:

compressing a plate of mouldable thermosetting material between two mutually opposite moulding surfaces,

providing at least one injection moulding area communicating with at least one of said moulding surfaces, and

injecting plastic material in contact with a surface portion of said plate into said injection moulding area,

providing spacer means in said injection moulding area, positioned in such a way as to prevent the penetration of said plate into said injection moulding area.

6. (withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 5, comprising the step of heating said plate in contact with said half-shells until reaching a polymerisation temperature of the plastic material constituting said plate.

7. (withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 6, comprising the step of heating the thermoplastic material before its injection into the aforesaid injection moulding area and cooling said thermoplastic material in contact with said half-moulds down to a temperature of partial hardening.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a compression moulding volume in which the plate is compressed is defined between the compression moulding surfaces,

wherein the injection moulding chamber is formed in one of the half moulds, is recessed with respect to the compression moulding surface of the half mould in which it is formed and is open into the compression moulding volume; and

wherein the spacer means extend from a bottom surface of the injection moulding chamber and project into the compression moulding volume.